

WARREN
MAGAZINE



SPIRIT
#4

OUT 1964

SUPER
SPECIAL
SUMMER
CLASSIC
ISSUE

8 BIG
STORIES
WITH
COLOR!

THE

THE SPIRIT

By

Will
Eisner

1964
POG

\$1.00



FLAXEN
WEAVER



ELEVATOR

VINO RED



BANG

THE GUN
GUN

THE SPIRIT

EIGHT BIG STORIES IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE

MR. McDOL



THE SPIRIT
OF '76



LIFE BELOW



RETURN OF
SILK SATIN





ISSUE NO. 4
OCTOBER 1974

Beneath the city streets, in the 100 stories of Central City, THE SPIRIT must search for a dangerous killer and find a home for "dead" enemies.

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THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS



It is also rare that a second issue of a magazine comes close to matching the first. But **THE SPIRIT** has succeeded! The first issue was absolutely great. But the second was even better!

I had hoped to read the Powder Puff series sometime, and it came even sooner than I expected. I can't pick out a favorite story in this issue, though, since they were all well put together and exciting!

Let's just say the whole package was excellent!

STEVE ANDREWS
St. Charles, Mo.

I have enjoyed reading few comics, but **THE SPIRIT** is a welcome exception. "Black Alley" and "Paraffin" from issue #3 were quite good, although I was a little disappointed by "Lonesome Cool" and the story about the embezzler. Keep the good work truckin'!

TIM COSTELLO
Barrington, Ill.

"Eisner is a master of characterization"

Again Will Eisner has created another great issue starring the finest comic hero in history. He combines excellent stories with art well suited to the material. His unique graphic arrangements are still a beacon in the comic industry today, and considering much of the work is some thirty years old, that is no little achievement.

In reference to the comments of Craig Peters in the letter column of **THE SPIRIT** #3, in which he suggested new **SPIRIT** stories by Rich Corben, Frank Frazetta, and Esteban Maroto: Please don't tell **THE SPIRIT** is a creation of Will Eisner and should remain so. The aforementioned artists have already earned their reputations within the pages of **CREEPY**, **EERIE**, and **WAM-PIRELLA**, but only Will Eisner is suited for **THE SPIRIT**.

JOHN BICK
Garden City, N.J.

I subscribed to your magazine in December when I found out you were bringing back **THE SPIRIT**. I remembered it from the Harvey comics version a few years back, and I think that Warren's publication of the series is fantastic! The characterizations are truly real! You feel for characters like Silken Floss and Skeek. I especially enjoyed the story which featured the return of **THE SPIRIT**'s old nemesis, The Octopus. I hope we see more of him in the future.

STEPHEN THOMPSON
Urbana, Ohio

He'll be here, Steve.

The cover of **SPIRIT** #3 was a collector's masterpiece! Such powerful realism, mood and effectiveness...it almost seemed alive!

Why should I take the time to comment on the inside content? All I have to say is it was a gem throughout!

JACK MORNINGER
Indianapolis, Ind.

THE SPIRIT is every bit as good as I have heard it was, and I congratulate Warren for giving it to a larger audience than was ever possible in the 1940s. And the art format is perfect!

Will Eisner was truly one of the most innovative artists of his day. He's a man whose talent extended far beyond his times. His thoroughly individual style, his fresh look toward layouts, his fine use of mood and atmosphere and his superior character portraits have all contributed to making him an artist of boundless source and versatility.

No two **SPIRIT** stories are ever alike, but each contains to a lesser or greater degree, the essential Eisner characteristics: humor and pathos, drama and satire, small-time relevance and a certain level of social consciousness. His characters are extremely realistic, modelled after everyday people. Eisner is a master of characterization and brilliant story plots.

THOMAS SZEBERENY
Montreal, Canada

I would like to congratulate Bill O'Bryan, the editor, on **SPIRIT** #3. I had already seen the story in an enlarged black-and-white form in **Jim Steranko's** comic anthology, and was overwhelmed by the cover version. The thumb-prints on the edge of the index cards were a good touch!

ROGER KRUEGAR
Phoenix, Ariz.

What amazes me most about **THE SPIRIT** is that a comic hero first published in the 1940s had no superpowers, nor did his enemies. He didn't save the world, or conquer ridiculous space monsters, nor did nearly all the other comic heroes of his time.

THE SPIRIT's enemies are the real enemies of society, organized crime lords, crooked politicians, and ordinary people who have gone wrong.

Thus, plus the fact that Will Eisner is willing to use him to humorously make **Det. Colt** unusual and often enlightening.

ROBERT REED
Oak Park, Ill.

What can I say? First, I got **CREEPY** #62 in the mail with the superb addition of **Berni Wrightson**. Then I get my first look at the latest re-creation of **THE SPIRIT**. The stories stand up magnificently today, and the color section proves that Eisner has lost none of his wit or style.

R. DAVID LUDWIG
Huntington Beach, Calif.

This letter is to show my appreciation for **THE SPIRIT** in a manner additional to buying multiple copies of each issue.

The re-issuing of the vintage stories is an important an event to the comic medium now as was their original appearance decades ago. And considering the limited market for quality comic material, you couldn't have developed a more attractive format without making it prohibitive-ly expensive.

When I purchased the first issue, I didn't care at all for the tones that you'd added for black and white publication. But since then, I've grown accustomed enough to them to accept them. Also, I don't approve of the titles you've added to nearly every story. I can appreciate your reasons for doing these things but I have qualms about anything that tampers with the purity of original art.

My feelings are even more mixed regarding the color stories. As beautifully done as they are, a great amount of the detail, as well as much of the mood, is often lost. I can tolerate one color story per issue, but please don't take seriously the suggestion that you go all color.

Actually, I feel embarrassed to fudge these minor complaints. Let's just say that **THE SPIRIT** is far and away the best comic published today. The entire product—editorial material and packaging, as well as the stories and art—indicate that the people responsible really care, an attitude increasingly rare in the comics industry these days.

GORDON FLAGG
Atlanta, Ga.

THE SPIRIT does to the comic strip what 2001 did to the science-fiction novel!

All I suggest, though, is that you take it easy on the contents page. Your letter reminds me of the awful blurbs on the back of cheap paperbacks (is there such a thing anymore)? Let the stories speak for themselves. They do it awfully well.

RICHARD MEYERS
Bridgeport, Conn.

THE SPIRIT continues to thrill another generation of readers, with stories that are as timeless and entertaining now as when they were first presented. Will Eisner's crime-fighting creation is still the world's greatest character!

"It was a gem throughout!"

I have never written to a comic magazine before and it is with great displeasure that I do so now.

The basis for my complaint is the character Ebony in THE SPIRIT series. I find him offensive. His appearance and speech, even in a script, cannot be condoned.

Your books are now being read by adults who remember the adventures of THE SPIRIT as children. But also, new young readers of both the black and white races, are reading it for the first time. And this parody of a black human being is fed into their minds.

I, as a black man, who manage to speak and write English to a fair degree and who does not look like a monkey, must reprint the book to my children. And if that is the case I challenge the appearance of that character in the book as bigotry.

I hope you will display more common sense and decency in the future.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS
New York, N.Y.

Your thoughtful letter raises a question that is of serious concern to all of us, and it deserves a straightforward answer.

It is not, nor has it ever been our intention to portray any faction of our society, minority or otherwise, in a degrading fashion.

Ebony is the product of an era when it was fashionable to place minorities in the role of comic relief, as did the films of Marlon Brando and Stephen Fitch. Today, many of these seem in questionable taste, but we don't feel that re-printing stories, or re-showing films of that period constitute bigotry.

True, Ebony is a stereotype and a parody. But no more so than Archie Bunker is of middle-class America, or Ossie Arnaz of the Cuban immigrant. These characters are historical creatures whom many make people laugh without offending their dignity, yet they are no more representative of their respective races than Ebony is of his.

Humor is more often at someone's expense. It exaggerates the hobbies and weaknesses of a human being in order to evoke laughter. While a character's actions might appear ridiculous on the surface, beneath them is a dignity which the audience must recognize before they can laugh. Without this basic human dignity for his audience to identify with, Ebony could never have become such a popular character with fans of all races!

Thank you for THE SPIRIT. It is a magazine I enjoy from cover to cover, which is more than I can say for most of the magazines and comics being published today.

The artwork is superb, and Will Eisner has proven to be a master of mood.

It seems that good things don't last long these days. I wish THE SPIRIT a lot of luck.

CHRISTOPHER COOKE
Westport Harbor, Mass.

THE SPIRIT is one of the finest heroes in existence and it took a company like Warren to bring it back to life.

I have a few suggestions, though. Why not reprint the supplements in order, starting with the last one in THE SPIRIT bag? Also, why not print the origin of THE SPIRIT in color? I am sure a lot of people who have never read it would appreciate it, and those who have read it would enjoy seeing it again.

DENNIS SUMMERS
Oak Park, Mich.

Warren has done a tremendous service by bringing back into the spotlight Will Eisner and THE SPIRIT. A whole new generation of readers will be turned on to the realistic and refreshingly human stories, which are often humorous, touching, and suspenseful at the same time.

With the publication of THE SPIRIT, it appears you are now willing to try something else besides horror stories, and I for one would like to see you publish a black-and-white super hero magazine. With the talented staff you already have, it could be one of the finest publications around!

DANIEL LOUIE
Bellmore, N.Y.

THE SPIRIT #2 was incredible! Ever since I read about the character in Jim Steranko's "History of Comics," THE SPIRIT and I have become good friends. Will Eisner's use of lighting effects, and the way he draws his readers into each story are beautiful.

THE SPIRIT is real. He gets beaten up, sometimes quite brutally, misses cracks, and ruins his clothes. And even when he triumphs there's still that lingering question in the reader's mind: "How did he ever do it?"

Eisner was always ahead of his time and now it seems, so is Jim Warren for bringing him back into perspective.

Thank you for many hours of reading pleasure.

MIKE CAHLIN
Gainesville, Fla.



Unique yet human-virtuous have always been a trademark in the adventures of THE SPIRIT

You are doing thousands of SPIRIT fans a great service by reprinting the old classics. Undoubtedly, you will attract many more followers.

THE SPIRIT can only be equalled by Hall Fosker's Prince Valiant as the all-time greatest comic strips.

TONY ALBENSI
Monteville, Penn.

After reading the second issue of THE SPIRIT, I had only one regret ... namely, that I missed the first issue. True, I had seen the ads in other papers, but I had no idea it would be this good!

As I read the exploits of THE SPIRIT, I fell immediately in love with Powder Pout, and all the other characters, both human and villainous.

I was enthralled by both the art and the stories. Will Eisner is as fine a writer as he is an artist.

I would like to add my congratulations to those that you have already received, and extend a hearty thanks to Jim Warren, Bill Dubay, and most of all to Will Eisner for bringing THE SPIRIT back to a world where he is sorely needed.

ALAN LANKIN
Vineland, N.J.

RICHARD R. WOLFE
Laurelton, N.Y.

IT GETS AWFULLY LONELY IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY

Denny Colt needs something to do besides fighting crimes all day. Why not give him some letters to read?

THE SPIRIT DEAD LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 E. 32nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10016



WILL EISNER INTERVIEWS DOLAN!



EISNER I guess you've known THE SPiRiT longer than anyone, Commissioner Dolan. A lot of people would like to know how THE SPiRiT came to be. I mean, how did he originate? The reasons for the mask, etc. Can you tell our readers something about that?

DOLAN: I've known the SPiRiT... or Denny Colt... since he was a kid in the police department. You see, Denny Colt really started his career on the streets of Central City. He was orphaned early and grew up with an uncle (an old boxer). The old man was later killed in a street brawl. Denny worked his way through school and after college got a job in the D.A.'s office. His experience there stimulated his interest in criminology.

It wasn't long before he left the department and after taking a master's degree in criminology he set up a practice on his own. He would hire out to public officials or police chiefs like me.

EISNER: But what about the masked bit - THE SPiRiT thing?

DOLAN: Well, that's a story in itself. Many years ago a real nut called Dr. Cobras got the idea that he could knock out the whole city by spiking the water supply with a chemical he developed. The chemical could bring on a state of suspended animation when ingested.

EISNER: Boy was he sick!

DOLAN: Yeah! Well, Denny Colt got on to it somehow and tipped me off. Now, time was short and Denny couldn't wait until I got a patrol car in motion. So he went in to make a break on his own.

EISNER: That was a dumb thing to do.

DOLAN: Foolhardy, brave, impetuous... but he had no chance, really. Cobras had the juice piped into the city water supply, and all he had to do was turn the valve.

EISNER: That doesn't make any sense to me!

she nut Dr. Cobras was such a brain, he should have figured that.

DOLAN: Look, Eisner, are you going to let ME tell this, or arrest you?

During the fight that followed, Denny smashed up the place. A gunshot by Cobras burst the glass tank that contained the fluid and Danny Colt was immersed in it. He went into a state of suspended animation. When we got there, we thought he was dead. In fact, we accepted the fact that he was dead.

EISNER: You what? Man, that's unbelievable! If you knew that Cobras had such a fluid, surely you assumed that THE SPiRiT was not.

DOLAN: A few days later we had a funeral... ~~EISNER: FUNERAL!~~ (Expletive deleted!) Did you set a coroner's report?

DOLAN: ... and buried Denny Colt in Wildwood Cemetery.

EISNER: ~~AURUF!~~ (Expletive deleted!) You could have killed the poor fella!

DOLAN: Sometimes later, Denny appeared in my office...

EISNER: How long later?

DOLAN: ... Er, I don't know exactly! He talked about this being an opportunity to change his life.

EISNER: Why?

DOLAN: Well, he was now officially DEAD. Therefore, OFFICIALLY he did not exist! This would free him from all kinds of restrictions.

EISNER: Like ~~WWCWF!~~ I don't get it. You mean, like ~~bers~~? Where would he live? HOW?

DOLAN: He built a secret home under his headstone in Wildwood Cemetery. From there he continued to protect me.

EISNER: Hey did he get a building permit?

DOLAN: Are you trying to be funny? Who dreamt up this whole bit, anyhow?

EISNER: (Expletive deleted)

DOLAN: (Invisible).



LIFE BELOW

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A CITY
IS A LIVING
THING...
IT IS A
BREATHING,
PULSATING,
MAN-MADE
PHENOMENON
WHOSE
FOUNDATIONS
GO DEEP
INTO THE
EARTH...

THERE, IN
THE WIST
CATACOMBS
OF ITS FLOORS,
TREWS A
LIFE QUITE
UNKNOWN
TO US IN THE
FOREST OF
TOWERS ABOVE...



BY WILL EISNER

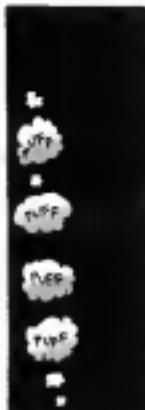
So remote is the thought of life beneath the streets that in the chill rainy dawn of December 26, 1947, police commissioner Dolan laughed when "Tattler" Jacks said "The Worm" would come from the grave to keep him from squalling about where the heavey money was hidden.



...And so...
in the silence of
the city beneath...







It was now midnight of the 20th of December, 1947, a snowfall greater than the blizzard of '88 had fallen and the city lay prostrate under 23.3 inches of snow... railroads were halted... power lines down... cars and trucks lay abandoned in the streets... the once busy metropolis lay inert and silent under a shroud of white... Atop the manhole cover stands a 15 ton truck, immovable.





On the morning of the 27th, the guy with military precision moved huge equipment into the streets and began the million-dollar job of snow removal ... life began to regain its tempo, and things long buried under the drifts began to move...



Within 48 hours the temperature dropped ... a soft rain melted the snow, saving the city millions of dollars...

...and all was
normal above...

...and below the city...



MR McDooL



POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

I'VE TRACED THAT CALL, MADDOL... NOW WHILE WE'RE ON OUR WAY YOU'D BETTER TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

WAL NOO, YE TYKNOW. CRODYS O' GLASSON IS WILLIN' TO INSURE ANYTHING. LAST MONTH WE HAD A REQUEST TO INSURE A FILE O' PAPERS...

WHAT WAS IN THE PAPERS... AND WHO WANTED TO INSURE THEM?

A FORMER THIEF NAMED SOHO SANDERS. HE'S THE MON WE'RE GOIN' TO SEE... AZ FURR THE PAPERS, THEY CONTAIN AN EXPOSÉ OF SOMEBONE IMPORTANT. ILL WASER.







A FEW MINUTES LATER...







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SILK SATIN & THE SPIRIT

BY
WILL EISNER

SILK SATIN...
THIS COURT HAS PROVEN
YOU GUILTY OF THE MURDER
OF LORD ELSY... AND
SENTENCES YOU TO HANG
BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU
ARE DEAD.





SATIN'S APARTMENT... A FEW MINUTES LATER...



SATIN WENT TO INDIA TO RECOVER THE **EMERALD OF RAJAHPUR** FOR GRODYS OF GLASGOW. IT WAS ORIGINALLY THE EYE OF ONE OF THE GODS IN SOME HEATHEN TRAMPLE. A VERRA POWERFUL RELIGION IN THE HILLS 'TWAS STOLEN RECENTLY FROM ITS RIGHTEFUL OWNER, THE MAHARAJAH OF RAMPHINCH, AND WHEN IT TOOK INTO THE IRON'S HANDS, 'TWOULD CAUSE A GREAT UPHEAVER IN INDIA...



ELBY WAS ALSO AFTER THE JEWEL. HE FOLLOWED SATIN TO INDIA A MONTH AGO. HE WAS REPORTED DEAD. AND ALL THE EVIDENCE THE POLICE COULD FIND POINTED TO SATIN. SHE WAS CONVICTED ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, EVEN THOUGH THE BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED.

HE FRAMED HER TO GET HER OUT OF THE WAY!

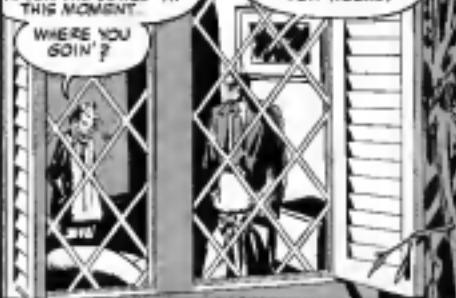


AYE, LADDIE... AN' IT'S ME CONSIDERED OPINION ELBY IS ALIVE.

IN CALCUTTA, AND AFTER THE JEWEL AT THIS MOMENT...

WHERE YOU GOIN'?

NOW I KNOW WHERE SATIN WENT. TAKE CARE OF HILDE AND GET A GOOD LAWYER. I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW WEEKS.



AND SO... SEEING
INDIA
IN A LITTLE BORDER TOWN WHERE RELIGIOUS FACTIONS STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY...



FOR WHEN THE FOOLS HAVE KILLED EACH OTHER OFF, THEN I SHALL STEP IN, AND WITH THE **EMERALD OF RAJAHPUR** IN MY POSSESSION... THE SUPERSTITIOUS TRIBES FROM THE HILLS WILL PROCLAIM ME THEIR LEADER... AND I SHALL RULE INDIA!



ER-ER, WELL? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

A THOUSAND PARDONS, MAJESTY... BUT I MUST WARN YOU... THE SPIRIT HAS ARRIVED IN OUR CITY... AND EVEN NOW IS SEEKING THE JEWEL!





AN HOUR LATER... THE COURTYARD OF THE PALACE...







ye' olde

Spirit OF '76

WILL EISNER

In 1776 Ebenezer Q. Budderchern of Applebend Township, delegate to ye' Continental Congress, did embark in a dinghy along ye' river Hudson toward ye' city of Philadelphia, there to affix his signature to ye' Declaration of Independence.

On his person, Citizen Budderchern carried a preliminary draft of afore-mentioned document; upon which were several suggested revisions....(his own).

However, upon passing Hooten Landing his vessel did encounter a heavy fog, and thereafter Citizen Budderchern was never seen again.

The next day the colonies declared their independence.

Printed July 2, 1948
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And so Hooten Landing remained unchanged through the years a landmark and a memorial a colonial world that had made only one or two concessions to the march of progress.

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD OF OLD PORT HOOTEN, ONE OF THE BATTLE FRONTS O' THE REVOLUTION... THAD NEAR THERE THAT OL' EB BUDDERCHERN DISAPPEARED... SO YE CAN SEE WHY EVERY FOURTH O' JULY, THERE'S A TREMENDOUS TOURIST TRADE...



WELL, SIR... ONE SARTIN FOURTH O' JULY, A PROL O' TOURISTS LANDED... AND THEN THE FUN BEGAN...

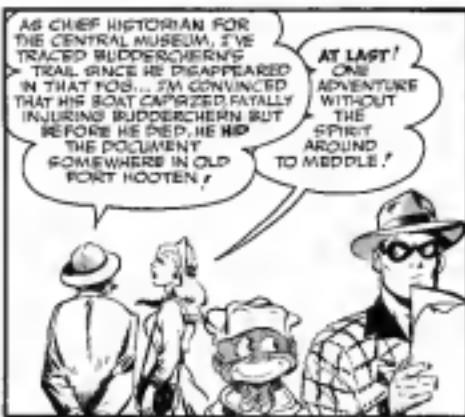
HERE WE ARE, MARS POLAN! SOON WE BEGIN OUR SEARCH FOR THE BUDDERCHERN DOCUMENT!

I'M SO EXCITED, PROFESSOR FLINTLOCK! I'M GLAD THE CENTRAL MUSEUM SENT ME WITH YOU ON THIS MISSION!



AS CHIEF HISTORIAN FOR THE CENTRAL MUSEUM, I'VE TRACED BUDDERCHERN'S TRAIL SINCE HE DISAPPEARED IN THAT FOOL... I'M CONVINCED THAT HIS BOAT CAPSIZED, FATALY INJURING BUDDERCHERN BUT BEFORE HE DIED, HE HID THE DOCUMENT SOMEWHERE IN OLD PORT HOOTEN!

AT LAST! ONE ADVENTURE WITHOUT THE SPIRIT AROUND TO MIDDLE?



WHAT NOW, MISTER SPIRIT?

YOU GO ON TO THE HOTEL EBONY. I HAVE TO SEE THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



KIDS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED T' HAVE FIREWORKS!!

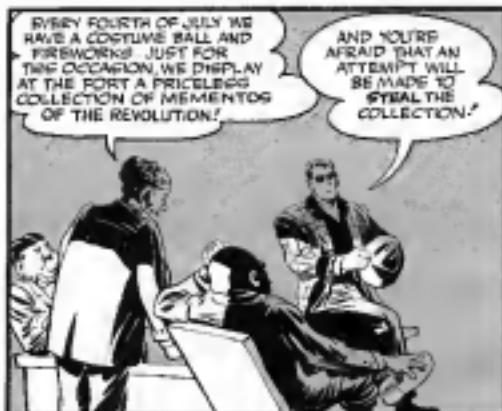
HMM... ER... AHEM WHERE CAN I BY SOME?



MEANWHILE...

WELCOME TO HOOTEN LANDING, MR. SPIRIT... HISTORICAL SITE ON THE HUDSON! PATRIOTIC PARADISE AT THE CITIZEN'S SHANG-DA-LE! A ROMANTIC RIVER RETREAT FOR REAL AMERICANS! ER... EXCEPT, AHEM, FOR ER... ER... OCCASIONAL CRIMES...





WELL, SIR, THAT ALMOST BROKE DOLAN IN HOOSEN LANDING FARRIED OUT TO THE OLD FORT FOR THE COSTUME BALL. I'D THINK IT WAS IN 'NINETEEN THIRTY CENTURY AGAIN!

THERE'S THE FORT, PROFESSOR FLINTLOCK... SOON OUR SEARCH WILL COMMENCE!

GAD! LOOK AT THAT CROWD POUR IN, MR. SPIRIT.

REMEMBER THE ANNOUNCEMENT I WANT YOU TO MAKE GENTLEMEN?

BLUE... IT'S NOT TRUE.

NEVERTHELESS, THE CROOKS WON'T KNOW THAT I'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO GIVE YOU A FORTUNE IN HISTORICAL RELICS!

THE SWINDON STARTED... WALTZING, SQUARE DANCING, EVERYONE HAVIN' A JOLLY OLD TIME. AND THEN AT 11:30 THE PRESIDENT O' THE CHAMBER O' COMMERCE GOT ON THE STAND.

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE TONIGHT THE DISCOVERY OF THE LONG MISSING BUDDEBCHERN DOCUMENT!

YAHOO!

THE DOCUMENT WAS DISCOVERED LAST WEEK ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER! IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FAMED BUDDEBCHERN LEGEND, A BOAT WILL SET OUT AT MIDNIGHT FROM HOOSEN LANDING WITH THE DOCUMENT ABOARD, AND FOLLOW BRENZER BUDDEBCHERN'S COURSE NIGHT HERE TO THE FORT.

YAY Wahoo!

WOOPEE

OH... THIS IS AWFUL... OUR TRIP IS WASTED!

BAH! THE YOKEL'S MAY BELIEVE THAT PUBLICITY STUNTS, BUT NOT ME... I TELL YOU THE DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN FOUNDNESS DOLAN! IT IS HERS IN THE FORT!

HOWDYA LIKE DAT, RATTEY? I'LL A DOCUMENT WORTH THOUSANDS CREEPIN' THROUGH TH' FOG IN AN UNPROTECTED ROW BOAT? THE MERE THOUGHT OF IT MAKES ME DROOL!

HMM, IT'S WORTH TWICE AS MUCH AS ANY ANTIQUES WE COULD GRAB HERE!

BOY, THERE HAS BEEN A GRANGE O' PLANS!

THEY'RE LEAVING? THE ROWBOAT DECAY IS WORKIN'! THE FORT IS SAFE? I HOPE EBONY CAN HOLD OUT IN THAT BOAT TILL I GET TO HIM...







The ELEVATOR

AS A MATTER OF TRUTH,
CRIMEFIGHTERS DEPEND
HEAVILY ON SIMPLE TIPS...
AND IN THE MATTER
OF SNIFFER THE
BOND THEIR WE HAD
THE TIP...AND IT ONLY
REMAINED TO PICK HIM
UP...A SIMPLE MATTER.
BUT ANYTHING
MIGHT HAPPEN.

WHICH WAS
WHY 6:50 PM
ONE GLOOMY DAY
FOUND US AT
THE ENTRANCE
TO THE
CENTRAL
BUILDING ON
WAVER STREET.

SPIDER

THE JOINT'S SURROUNDED
SPIDER STAIRWAYS AND ALL...
THE ONLY EXIT NOW
IS BY ELEVATOR...
WHAT'LL WE DO?

WAIT.

From the 65th
Floor of the
Central Building
to the street
it is but
five minutes
by elevator.

Yet
there are times
when these few
fleeting minutes
seem
like hours,
and the little car
a stage
wherein
mighty dramas
begin....
or
end....

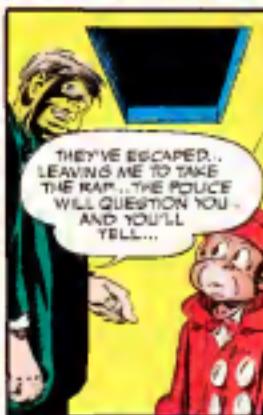


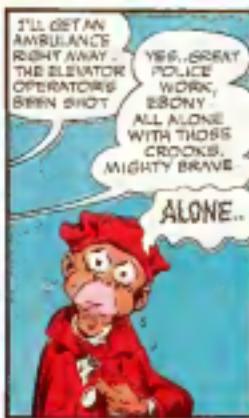










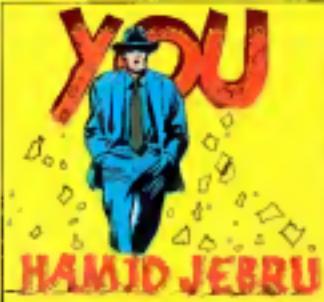




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ON SALE
SEPTEMBER 10!





Print Published September 18, 1947
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The chill autumn fog
has laid a clammy hand
on Central City...
smothering sounds...
dampening footsteps...
squeaking into soggy
silence the brisk, brittle
sounds of the city...

Only in Gum Gully...only
in the city's little kingdom
of crime is there a
resistance to the Silt that
soaks the city when the
fog rolls in...

For here in the crooked
pock marked kingdom
there is something that
the wet fog cannot
weaken... Here in Gum
Gully there is only
waiting... waiting... for
the return...

the
Return
of
Wino Red

Chill, too, is the autumn fog over the isle of Merzoprani...
Here too there is waiting.
Here too they are waiting
waiting for Vino to go...



HA HA
...AND ME, I'VE HAD IT...



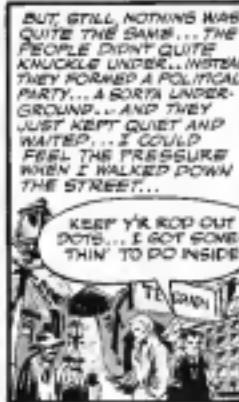
I'M THE FUNNIEST OF ALL...
SUDENLY FEELIN' REMORSE...
SUDENLY I'M THINKIN' ABOUT
THE SPITIN'... THINKIN' ABOUT
THE LAST WE SAW OF HIM...
JUST 100 DAYS AGO...











FIFTY-SIX HOURS LATER ON A COURSE WEST-SOUTHWEST FROM THE ISLE OF MEZZOFRANT, VIND JIGGLES FRANTICALLY AT HIS RADIO...

HELLO AZORES
HELLO AZORES...
THIS IS VIND
AGAIN... I'M STANDING
OFF YOUR ISLE...
I'M DYING OF HUNGER
AND THIRST...
GIVE ME A
SIGNAL...
COME IN...
I AM BUILDING
FIRE
BEACON...
DON'T TRY
TO COME IN
— TREACHER-
OUS CURRENTS
AND SHOALS...
YOU'LL
SMASH UP!

TWENTY MILES AWAY...

OK, OK... KEEP
TALKIN' FOR GOSH
SAKES! IT'S
CREEPY
OUT HERE!
DON'T
WORRY
YER A HALF
HOUR AWAY.
TOMORROW
WELL BE IN TH'
STATES... I
GOT A PLANE
WAITIN'!



OUT AT SEA...

YEH... IN THE STATES,
I'LL RULE THE ROOST
AGAIN... VIND RETURNS!
WHAT HEADLINES
THAT'LL MAKE...
HEY... LOOIE!
WHAT HAPPENED?
...SPITZ... WHAT'S
WRONG??

ON THE ISLE...

LOOIE!
SPITZ
!!



I TOLD YOU,
SPITZ, THIS
WAS A WILD
GOOSE
CHASE...
VIND REED
WOULDN'T BE
SETTLING
ON AN
AMERICAN-
HELD
POSSESSION.



WE BETTER
TAKE OFF QUICKLY...
THERE'S A STORM
COMING UP...



HELLO...
VIND TO SPITZ...
OVER... HELLO
SPITZ!!
QUIT YER
KIPPIN'... TALK...
TALK! I CAN'T
SEE YOUR FIRE...

I'M LOST OUT
HERE... LOOIE!
SHHHH... I'LL KILL
YOU IF YOU DON'T
TALK! I CAN'T DO
THIS! VIND, I'M
COMIN' IN ANYHOW...
LOOIE!... PLEASE!
MY BOAT'S
LEAKIN'



...DOWN IN BILBURY GULLY
THE FOG IS LIFTING... AND
THE PEOPLE AGAIN BEGIN TO
MOVE ABOUT THEIR
BUSINESS... THERE IS NO
LONGER ANY WAITING... FOR
THEY NOW KNOW VIND WILL
NEVER RETURN!



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This is your chance to meet THE SPIRIT, the most amazing crime-fighter in comics history. Created by Will Eisner.

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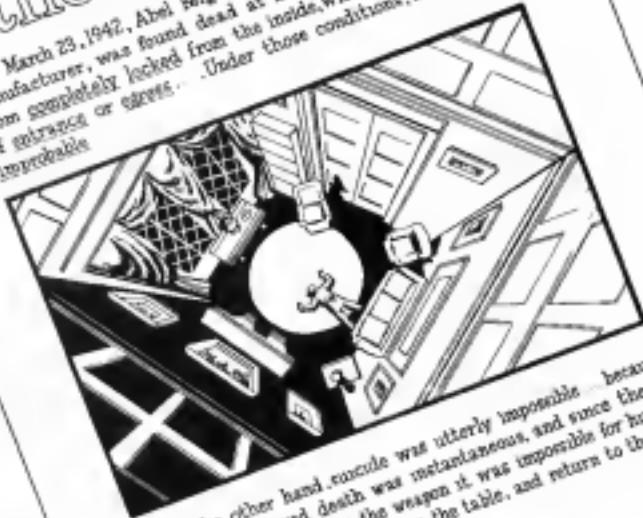
The GUILTY GUN...

Unsolved Cases No. 3

From the private files of

the Spirit ^{by} WILL EISNER

On March 23, 1942, Abel Engstrom, wealthy retired steel manufacturer, was found dead at his country estate... in a room completely locked from the inside, with no other means of entrance or egress... Under those conditions, murder was conceivable



On the other hand, suicide was utterly impossible... because the doctors proved death was instantaneous, and since the body lay 15 feet from the weapon it was impossible for him to shoot himself, place the gun on the table, and return to the spot where he was found.

There is only one other possibility...



People said Abel Ferguson had cause for suicide. In 1906 his partner, John Dailey, met a horrible death... he had fallen into a vat of molten steel at the Ferguson & Dailey mills.



But, from that day he was a broken man. He lived 36 years in the shadow of the tragedy, in complete retirement, interested only in his collection of unusual guns... until he died... by a hand unknown.



How?... why?
ACCIDENT?
SUICIDE?

MURDER?
We checked
every inch
of his past

...we found
nothing
that would
cast any
light on the
killing of
Abel J.
Ferguson

Ferguson had been tried for his murder,
but acquitted.

Case dismissed.

Lack of
evidence!

POLICE HEADQUARTERS

THIS HAS ME
STUMPED... IT CAN'T
BE SUICIDE AND
IT CAN'T BE
MURDER!

IT MUST BE
MURDER. SOMEONE
MUST HAVE GOTTEN
INTO THAT ROOM
SOMEHOW.
A GUN CAN'T FIRE
ITSELF!

MR. FERGUSON HAD BEEN ALONE IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTING, AND WAS THE OBVIOUS SUSPECT.



SHE LOOKED AT THE GUN AS IF HYPNOTIZED... SHE COULDN'T TAKE HER EYES OFF IT!

THINK, MRS. FERGUSON,
THINK. WAS IT PART OF
YOUR HUSBAND'S
COLLECTION?

I... I
DON'T
KNOW

AS IF IN A TRANCE, SHE REACHED FOR IT...

THEN...

THE GUN...
IT'S EVIL...
I FEEL IT!
TAKE IT AWAY!

From then on there was no use questioning her. She became completely hysterical every time we approached.

NO, NO! I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT
IT. STOP TORTURING
ME... AND TAKE THAT
GUN AWAY!

WHAT DO YOU
MAKE OF IT,
POLAN?

OF COURSE
SHE DID IT. GEE
THE WAY SHE ACTED
WHEN SHE SAW THE GUN
I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT
TILL SHE CALMS DOWN
AND GET A CONFESSION
OUT OF HER. IT'S
A CINCH!

POLAN'S SOLUTION DIDN'T SATISFY ME
NEXT DAY, IN THE POLICE LAB...

POLAN, I'M
CONVINCED THAT
THE GUN IS THE
KEY TO THIS MURDER
PROBLEM!

GUN? GUN?
WHAT'S THE
GUN GOT TO
DO WITH IT?

FOR ONE THING,
TAKE A LOOK AT
THIS DIAGRAM...



WHAT'S ALL
THIS?

THE ANGLE AT WHICH
THE SHOT WAS FIRED....
IF YOU DRAWING IT,
YOU'LL FIND THAT THE
GUN WAS FIRED LYING
FLAT ON ITS SIDE ON
THE TABLE...





THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THREE
BARRELS WAS ONE WEEK AFTER
JOHN DAILEY'S TRAGIC DEATH



I KEPT THINKING OF DOLAN'S REMARK... A GUN CAN'T FIRE ITSELF!

THE SUSPICION THAT WAS FORMING IN MY MIND WAS FANTASTIC AND HORRIBLE, BUT I HAD TO FOLLOW IT THROUGH.

YES ME SIGHT.
COMMISSIONER DOLAN
CALLED AND OKAYED
YOUR INVESTIGATION....
HERE ARE OUR
FILES

IS THIS THE
INFORMATION
YOU REQUIRE?

HMMMM
YES!

THANKS... THAT'S
ALL I WANTED TO
KNOW.

HEADQUARTERS...

DOLAN... I'VE
TRACKED DOWN THAT
GUN... TAKE A LOOK AT
THIS REPORT.

HMMMM.

WHAT? THIS IS
INCREDIBLE! IT
MEANS... IT
MEANS...

COINCIDENCE THAT'S
WHAT IT IS! COINCIDENCE!

MAYBE SO...
BUT LET'S SEE
WHAT EFFECT THIS
INFORMATION
HAS ON MRS
PERSUSSON

LATER...

MRS PERSUSSON,
WE'VE MADE AN INTERESTING
DISCOVERY! THE GUN THAT
KILLED YOUR HUSBAND
WAS CAST FROM THE
WAT OF STEEL IN WHICH
JOHN PAILEY DIED!

EEEEE

IT'S TRUE...
IT'S TRUE!
I FELT IT
ALL ALONG... THIS
GUN KILLED HIM!
JOHN PAILEY PAID
HIM BACK...

JUST AS HE
SAID HE WOULD...

BEFORE WE
PUSHED HIM INTO
THE MOLTEN
STEEL.

WHAT!

THIS IS A
CONFESSSION.
TAKE IT
DOWN.

AND THEN SHE BROKE DOWN AND TOLD THE WHOLE HORRORABLE STORY.

MRS. FERGUSON'S CONTINUATION

John Dalley found out that my husband was selling unlisted securities on the corporation. One night he threatened to expose him.

GOOD NIGHT, FERGUSON. YOU CAN EXPECT A POLICE OFFICIAL IN THE MORNING.

A POLICE INVESTIGATION AT THIS POINT WOULD RUIN ME... AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT!

YES ABEL, THERE IS A WAY...

I pointed out to Abel how easy it would be to meet Dalley on the catwalk above val 6.

HURRY, ABEL. MURKIE! IT'S THE ONLY WAY...

ALL RIGHT, DALLEY. I'VE GOT YOU THIS TIME.

YOU WIN, FERGUSON. BUT REMEMBER, I SHALL RETURN!!

NO ONE SAW US AND ABEL WAS CLEARED OF SUSPICION. BUT HE'S KEPT HIS THREAT--THAT GUN IS MOVED BY A DEAD MAN'S WILL...

HA HA HA HA
HEEE HEEE

IT'S A GUN WITH A WILL OF ITS OWN!

SIGH HERE, MRS. FERGUSON, AND THAT WILL BE ALL...

NOW YOU LIVE DOWN HERE, MRS. FERGUSON.

HELLO... (SCHOOLY?) TELL THE GIA I RAVE THE FACTS. YEAH, I'M LEAVIN' THE GRUN ON THE MAIL TABLE. PICK IT UP WHEN YOU GET AROUND TO IT.

DID Y'LOOK HER CELL, SPIRIT?

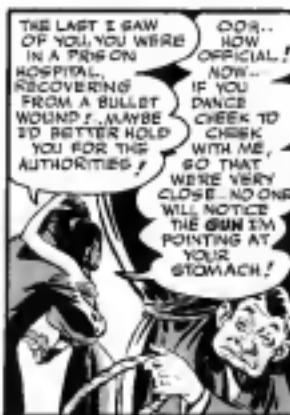
YEP



FLAXEN WEAVER



IT ALL STARTED
NORMALLY ENOUGH... IT
WAS GOING TO BE A DULL
EVENING... ELLEN HAD
INVITED ME INTO BOND
TO A FRANK SOCIAL AFFAIR...



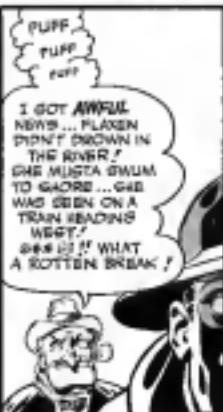






GREEDY BROKE
OPEN A
NEW DECK
SLOWLY,
WITH
DELIBERATE
CARA,
EACH ONE
DREW
A CARD





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away with it?
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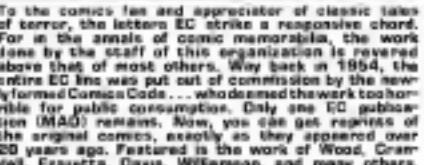
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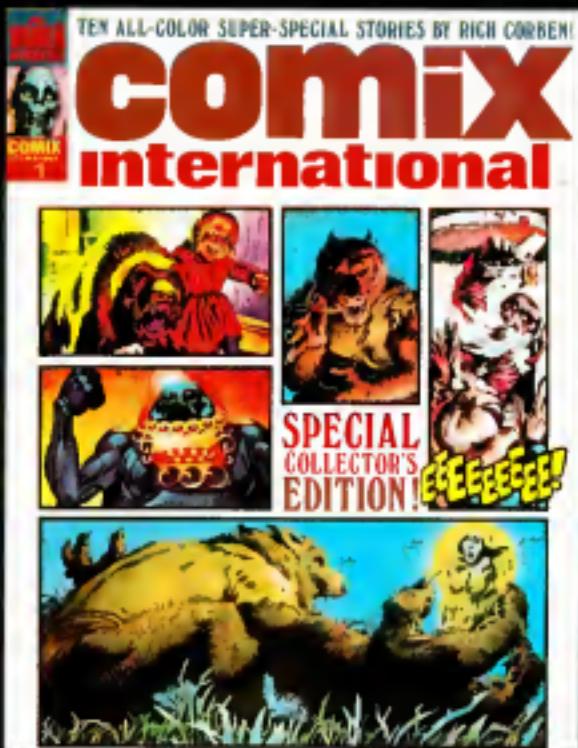
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